



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/611,297	07/01/2003	Jesse Allen Curran	9D-DW-19448	2555

7590

03/31/2006

John S. Beulick  
Armstrong Teasdale LLP  
Suite 2600  
One Metropolitan Square  
St. Louis, MN 63102

EXAMINER
----------

PATEL, RITA RAMESH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1746

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/611,297

Applicant(s)

CURRAN, JESSE ALLEN

Examiner

Rita R. Patel

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/06/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

Claim 18 is objected to because of the following informalities: the Office perceives that the word "that" in line 2 of Claim 18 perhaps should read "than" for clarity and coherency of said claim. Please make appropriate corrections.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 1, applicant claims "a water impervious basket of open mesh construction...permitting flow of liquid therethrough"; the Office finds this to be a contradiction because applicant is claiming the basket is impervious to water, yet simultaneously permits flow of liquid therethrough. Does applicant mean that the material the basket is comprised of is impervious to water? Applicant is requested to make appropriate corrections.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 1, applicant claims "a projection positioned on said basket, said projection engageable to transform said basket from said first size to said second size", however, it is unclear as to what claimed projection constitutes. Is

Art Unit: 1746

applicant claiming a projection that is a handle a knob or possibly a seam? Applicant is requested to provide clarification and appropriate corrections.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sloane (US Patent No. 2,529,267).

Sloane discloses a collapsible container C which can easily be set up and collapsed, comprising identical side walls, each consisting of horizontal/longitudinal rods 1 and vertical rods 2 (col. 1, lines 9-12; col. 2, lines 1-3). The walls form a rectangular shaped structure, as seen in Figure 1 of Sloane, wherein the structure of the container is made-up of horizontal and longitudinal rods which form mesh-like walls pervious to liquid flow therein. Sloane's teaching reads on applicant's invention wherein the basket is positionable between a first size and second size, the first size securing small items therein while the second size is smaller than the first and does not secure small items therein; Sloane's disclosure of the expanded container reads on the first size; Sloane's disclosure of the collapsed container reads on the second size. Additionally, Sloane discloses a lateral leg 6 located above the top horizontal and lateral leg of the respective edge-frame 3, thus providing a hand-hold HH (col. 2, lines 30-33), which may

Art Unit: 1746

read on applicant's claim of a projection positioned on said basket for engageable transformation of said basket from said first size to said second size. In Figure 1, it can be seen that leg 6 is located on both side walls of the container; which reads on applicant's claim wherein the projection is mounted to at least one of said lateral walls.

Although Sloane's invention has not been disclosed for intended use in a dishwasher, Sloane's collapsible container is intended for use in holding items therein; arguably it may be used to hold items to be washed within a dishwasher. Sloane's invention is structurally capable of performing applicant's claimed use of for retaining items to be washed therein. It is well settled that the intended use of a claimed apparatus is not germane to the issue of the patentability of the claimed structure. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the claimed use then it meets the claim. *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235, 238 (CCPA 1967); *In re Otto*, 136 USPA 459 (CPA 1963).

Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sloane further in view of McConnell (US Patent No. 4,732,291).

Sloane illustrates in Figure 1 said container C has a bottom wall, whereby the lateral walls are pivotally attached thereon by pivot loops 1a which are turnably engaged by the vertical legs of the edge-frame 3 (col. 2, lines 35-37). However, Sloane fails to teach a lid for said container C. McConnell teaches a pivotally attached lid within an assembly for storing baby bottle parts for cleansing in a dishwasher wherein the assembly has an upper lid 13 which may be hinged to the periphery 31 by means of hinges 33 and 35. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a pivotally attached lid in Sloane to aid in further containing items held

Art Unit: 1746

therein, as shown by McConnell, with expectation of providing desired enclosure of said apparatus used for holding items to be washed therein.

In Figure 1, Sloane illustrates the container C which reads on applicant's claims whereby the first size is configured such that said bottom wall is oriented substantially horizontally and each said lateral wall is oriented vertically. In Figure 2 Sloane illustrates the container C being collapsed which reads on applicant's claims whereby said bottom wall, said lateral walls and said lid is oriented substantially vertically; upon collapsing said container C, the top, bottom and lateral walls of the apparatus are in a vertical plane.

Claims 6, 7 and 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sloane and McConnell as applied to claims above, and further in view of Insalaco (US Patent No. 4,834,125).

Sloane and McConnell teach apparatuses used for holding objects to be washed therein, however, Sloane and McConnell fail to teach the material composition of said apparatus to be polypropylene and they also fail to teach the holding apparatus to have a connector to attach it to the rack of a dishwasher. However, Insalaco teaches a front loading dishwasher having a cabinet with an opening in its front side and a washing chamber interiorly disposed within the cabinet which includes a removable utensil basket 10 for a dishwasher which includes a pair of downwardly directed, spaced apart, integrally molded hooks 28 to securely, but removably, mount the basket 10 to a front portion 30 of the upper dish rack 12, wherein the utensil basket is preferably formed from polypropylene (Abstract; col. 3, lines 52-57). It would be obvious to one of ordinary

Art Unit: 1746

skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate such teachings of Insalaco with Sloan and McConnell, to achieve a rigid but flexible structure, that is durable, and provide convenient and secure assembly of the basket within the rack of the dishwasher.

Applicant claims a knob positioned on at least one of said longitudinal walls, however the aforementioned hand hold handle 6 taught by Sloan reads on applicant's claim for a knob. Although Sloan does not call said handle a knob, it is capable of performing the same function as a knob by providing the user with a grip to hold for expanding and collapsing said apparatus, therefore the handle of Sloan reads on the knob claimed by the applicant. It is well settled that the intended use of a claimed apparatus is not germane to the issue of the patentability of the claimed structure. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the claimed use then it meets the claim. *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235, 238 (CCPA 1967); *In re Otto*, 136 USPA 459 (CPA 1963).

### ***Conclusion***

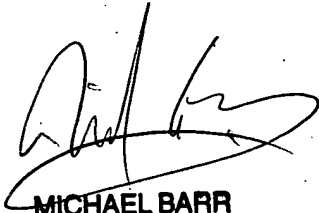
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rita R. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-8701. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1746

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RRP



**MICHAEL BARR**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER